

Customer No. 24498
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Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner has newly cited US Patent 4,484,295, to Bedard et al. The Examiner has asserted that it would be obvious to combine the subject matter of the newly cited reference with the subject matter of US patent 6,427,183 to Seidenberg, of record. The Examiner has implied that such combination would anticipate the invention defined by Claim 1 of the instant application. The Applicant can not agree.

Seidenberg shows a detection circuit (amplifier OP) which detects activity on bus S₀, and uses this information to control switch S₁, which controls the application of power to load DEV. Seidenberg provides an isolation transformer between the S₀ bus and load DEV, as explained in column 4, lines 11 to 13. However, nowhere does Seidenberg show or suggest an isolation transformer between the S₀ bus and the detector circuitry.

Bedard et al shows an isolation transformer 14, as part of interface circuit 12, between control circuit 10 and load 19, as explained in column 3, line 52. If the structure of Bedard et al were to be incorporated into the structure of Seidenberg, the relay of Seidenberg would be replaced by isolation transformer 14 of Bedard et al. Nowhere would the combined structure show or suggest:

"said communication sensing circuit comprising a transformer having a first winding coupled to said data bus and a second winding coupled to a first switching transistor",

as specifically set forth in Claim 1. Rather, the combined structure would have an isolation transformer at the output of the detection circuit, but not between the data bus and the detection circuit. It is therefore clear that,